Visit of Pak Foreign Secretary to India

446. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he met the Pakistan Foreign Secretary recently who brought a special message from Pakistan's Prime Minister for our Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed between the foreign Secretaries of the two countries and with other leaders in the country;

(c) whether Pakistan's envoy was told that his country was responsible for creating tension along the international border and would stop training and arming militants who were being sent to Kashmir and Punjab for creating trouble;

(d) whether the Pakistan's Prime Minister's idea about the build of the infra structure of regional security and co-operation in South-Asia and the concept of five nation dialogue was also discussed with him; and

(e) when the next round of talks with Pakistan is likely to be held and venue and agenda thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Pakistan Foreign Secretary, who visited India from 18-21 August, 1991 as the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Pakistan brought the message to our Prime Minister that the Government of Pakistan was sincerely interested in resolving all bilateral problems through a serious and constructive dialogue for normalising relations between the two countries. The Special Envoy was informed that the Government of India had consistently worked for the establishment of tension-free and good neighbourly relations between India and Pakistan on the basis of the Simla Agreement.

(c) Government have repeatedly emphasised to Pakistan that the current tensions in India—Pakistan relations have been caused by Pakistan's support to terrorism and subversion in the Indian States of Punjab and J&K, its concerted campaign to internationalise the Kashmir issue and its hostile propaganda directed against India in violation of the Simla Agreement and universally accepted norms of conducting inter-State relation. Pakistan has been told that for a meaningful and sustained improvement in Indo-Pak relations, these activities must stop.

(d) The Special Envoy came with a general message and specific issues were not discussed with him in detail.

(e) The next round of Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan are scheduled to be held at Islamabad between 18-20 September, 1991 to discuss issues of mutual concern and to carry the bilateral dialogue forward.

Opening of Post offices in villages

447. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the statewise number of villages in the country without a post office, so far;

(b) the number of post offices opened in rural areas during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) by when all the villages are likely to be provided with post offices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Post Offices are generally sanctioned in rural areas for a group of villages on the basis of certain norms such as population, distance from nearest post office and financial viability.

As on 1.4.91, there were 132646 post offices functioning in rural areas in the